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RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
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RHMFISS/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
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SUBJECT: GOI DESIRE TO EXPAND CYBER RELATIONSHIP

11. (U) This is an Action Request for PM. Please see para 9.

12. (SBU) Summary: The GOI would like to see measurable progress on the creation of a joint Indo-US Cybersecurity fund and joint training opportunities, and welcomes Washington comments on how to proceed on these issues. Of particular interest to the GOI is the future of the stagnating Research and Development working group and the creation of working groups on Cybersecurity in the Financial and Transportation Sectors. End Summary.

R&D: Up or Out

13. (SBU) Recent conversations with NSC cybersecurity coordinator Commander Saini have focused on the January 16-17 third plenary of the Indo-US Cybersecurity Forum. Saini has complained that the R&D working group (WG) has stagnated and that a decision needs to be made either to move forward with the creation of a virtual or physical joint R&D facility and student exchange programs, or to break the R&D group down into other WGs divided by topic. He suggested that the overlap between the Science and Technology and R&D working groups was contributing to this stagnation. Saini suggested that the plenary would be a good opportunity to address the overlap issue and pave the way for the R&D working group to move forward with the creation of a joint facility and student exchanges. He said the GOI would prefer to see the R&D WG succeed as is, but would be willing to break up the group into smaller, topical groups if that would help promote movement on the issues.

Proposal 1: Financial Sector Working Group

14. (SBU) The GOI is very interested in formalizing a working group on Cybersecurity in the Financial Sector. The seminar on the issue held in Mumbai in September 2005 was a resounding success and New Delhi would like to see a dialogue

continue in the working group arena to address the need to secure legitimate transactions and isolate "dark force monies." Saini noted an exponential increase in financial interdependency between India and the US through networks. This dependency includes not only normal import/export transactions but also "support processing" by Indian industry to US financial institutions and bodies (i.e. through BPOs). Saini noted that Internet-based transactions were also exploited by "dark forces" which included terrorists, hawala operators, scammers, and drug lords. The GOI would like to ensure that the US and India have interoperable standards in cyberspace; Saini proposes that participants in the working group include representatives from the Reserve Bank of India and Indian intelligence agencies as well as their USG counterparts.

Proposal 2: Transportation Sector Working Group

15. (SBU) The GOI is interested in dialoguing about a working group on cybersecurity in the transportation sector and welcomes Washington's comments. Currently, there is no single entity in India responsible for protecting critical infrastructure. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) handles intrusion events on an emergency basis but does not maintain the security of infrastructure networks. India is most interested in an exchange with TSA on securing their air, rail, and bus data infrastructure. Saini readily admits that although Delhi and Washington have a joint interest in securing data systems related to air traffic, rail and bus networks -- though accounting for a staggering amount of India's daily domestic travel -- is not a logical

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issue of bilateral concern. That said, he hopes the Indian side could glean important "lessons learned" from TSA officials who focus on securing data relating to ground transportation.

Joint Fund & Training to Raise Cyber Cooperation Profile

16. (SBU) The GOI would like to highlight the cooperative nature of the Indo-US Cybersecurity Forum and request feedback from Washington on two issues introduced at the 9-10 November 2004 Plenary in Washington. Specifically, the GOI is eager to set up a joint Indo-US Cybersecurity Fund to which the two governments would provide start up funding. Other stakeholders could also be invited to contribute. The fund would be used to finance the Cybersecurity Forum's activities, including possible expansion as per above. In addition, the GOI would like to move forward with more training exercises in 2006, including exchanges of technical experts and joint training. To underline the importance the GOI ascribes to what has become a high-profile and highly successful bilateral engagement on cybersecurity, Joint Secretary (Americas) S Jaishankar on December 8 reiterated

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Delhi's desire to move forward on the joint fund and joint training.

Bio Brief: Saini to Retire from Navy and Go Private

17. (SBU) Saini told in us that he plans to retire from the Navy after his tour at NSCS concludes in April, in order to continue following cybersecurity issues in the private sector. He has not finalized where he will end up (NASSCOM, a think-tank, or industry), but he assures us he will tell us as soon as he knows, and will introduce us to his successor once one is named. For now, his focus remains squarely on achieving deliverables out of the January plenary, undoubtedly to further increase his marketability.

Comment: GOI Eager to Move Forward

¶8. (SBU) Saini and his NSCS superior, Joint Secretary Arvind Gupta continue to push Indo-US cybersecurity cooperation with energy and focus at every opportunity, including at the High Technology Cooperation Group (Septel). They -- as well as senior Foreign Ministry officials -- clearly want to create strong momentum and expand the bilateral infrastructure underpinning cybersecurity cooperation. Erica Russell will get another taste of this eagerness during her upcoming TDY, which will (we hope) authoritatively address the above issues.

¶9. (SBU) ACTION REQUEST: Post requests that Erica Russell be prepared to give the GOI authoritative responses to their requests regarding the joint fund, joint training, and financial sector and transportation working groups, during her forthcoming meetings in New Delhi.

¶10. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website:
(<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/>)
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